

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel originally-filed claims 1 and 2, and add new claims 3 and 4 as provided below. The listing of these claims are provided as follows, on separate sheets:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (New) A lubricated hot rolling method that uses a lubricating oil which contains at least one of an high-basic alkaline-earth metal phenate, high-basic alkaline-earth metal carboxylate, high-basic alkaline-earth salicylate, or high-basic alkaline-earth metal sulfonate having a basicity of 40 mgKOH/g or higher, wherein the lubricating oil has a viscosity at approximately 40°C of 800 cSt or less, the method comprising:

when a material to be rolled is supplied between at least two rolls, providing the lubricating oil to the rolls using a noncombustible gas, wherein, after the lubricating oil is granulated or atomized into particulates having an average size of approximately at most 1 mm, the noncombustible gas has a flow rate for at least one lubricating nozzle of approximately at least 2000 cm³ per minute, and a flow velocity of at least 1 m per second in at least 0.01 cm³ and at most 20 cm³ per 1 m² of a surface area of the roll.

4. (New) The lubricated hot rolling method according to claim 1, further comprising providing at least advance supply of the lubricating oil before the material to be rolled is bit between the rolls, and an amount supplied of the lubricating oil is approximately at most 1 cm³ per 1 m² of the surface area of the rolls.